

# Agriculture Emergency Response Teams (AERTs)



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NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
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# Agriculture Emergency Response Teams



- What are AERTs?
- When are AERTs utilized?
- Why do AERTs need your help?

# Agricultural Emergencies

## NATURAL

- Tornado
- Hurricane/Severe Weather Event
- Animal Disease Outbreak/Pests
- Fire/Forest Fires
- Drought



## “Man-Made”

- HAZMAT
- Introduction of Pests or Disease
- Structural Collapse
- Transportation Emergencies



# Agriculture Emergency Response Teams

- ▶ Created in 2011 to respond to unmet, immediate agricultural needs
- ▶ NCDA&CS Employees:
  - ▶ Emergency Programs Division- coordination and mission assignment
  - ▶ Spans across Divisions including NC Forest Service
- ▶ Partners: Commodity Groups, Extension, Civil Air Patrol
- ▶ Teams usually 8 members with Team Leader



# Tasks for Unmet Needs

- ▶ Access-chain saw work
- ▶ Storm debris removal from fields
- ▶ Coordinated efforts to improve harvest-ability of wind blown crops/ornamentals
- ▶ Temporary fencing repair
- ▶ Tarping of ag structures



# NCDA&CS Request for Codification

- ▶ Clarify Commissioner's authority and NCDA&CS role
- ▶ Define AERTs and Agriculture Emergency
- ▶ Provide immunity and liability protection for AERTs



# Questions?

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